

was half a million dollars. And we set up a new bureaucracy. We have three positions in the Office of Public Advocacy now, the top one paying \$85,000 a year. And the reasoning at that time was the best way to help counties that are in trouble was to set up this Office of Public Advocacy so they could use the individuals within that office while they were setting their court cases. And we opted last year instead of helping Richardson County, who were in dire straits and are in dire straits, and I agree that that's the case because I have sat through two hearings now on this issue and I understand the, the problems, the unique problems in some case that they have experienced. But although they may be unique at this time, it's hard to say how unique they will be in the future if some of the smaller counties should have some of the murder cases that they have had occur in their counties it would be a short period of time that they would run up these types of expenses. But our solution last year, instead of adopting my amendment to go ahead and set up that emergency fund, was to set up the Office of Public Advocacy. Now we're back, a year later, asking for more hundreds of thousands of dollars to set up, in addition to the Office of Public Advocacy, this emergency fund. And what I have said on this bill and what I say on, on the Office of Juvenile Services approach, and the LB 1044, LB 1141, all these bills that are coming up here, is Nebraska is a small state. We have 1.6 million people in this state. We have a fairly small tax base to pull from. If this body continues to try to make everybody happy with every approach suggested and tried to use taxpayers' dollars to pay for every approach that they want to try, in this case setting up the Office of Public Advocacy like you did last year, coming back a year later and setting up the, this program, in the case of the Office of Juvenile Services, having the community programs in addition to the Kearney and Geneva, in addition to the boot camps, in addition to the violent juvenile facility, in addition to, you know, all these things that you want to pay for, at some point you have got to begin to realize, and I say it should have been years ago and I'll keep harping on it, at some point you have got to prioritize what you want to do to decide which approach is best for the state of Nebraska and pay for that approach and realize that you cannot continue to pay for all the different approaches. I told Senator Vrtiska I would vote for his amendment to this because I realize, and I hope it's as narrowly drafted as everyone has told me it is,...